

SEAN P. DUFFY  
7TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN



10-90

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COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
CHAIRMAN, HOUSING AND INSURANCE  
CAPITAL MARKETS, SECURITIES AND  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

December 20, 2017

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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JAN 19 2018

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Pai:

**Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Thank you for your efforts to bring broadband to rural America. Like you, I understand the importance of high-speed Internet infrastructure in rural areas. The development of broadband network is critical to raising families, growing businesses, and strengthening communities in rural Wisconsin.

Enclosed you will find a letter from 30 rural Wisconsin broadband companies requesting the Commission act by the end of this year and increase funding for participants in the Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) plan. Funding the A-CAM plan as requested will result in significant additional broadband connectivity for rural areas, including in Wisconsin.

I respectfully request that you consider and approve the A-CAM plan as requested so that rural Wisconsin residents can fully utilize the opportunities afforded by broadband connectivity. I also urge you to evaluate additional universal service funding for those Wisconsin rural carriers who were not eligible or chose not to participate in the A-CAM plan.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Sean P. Duffy  
Member of Congress

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December 1, 2017

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

We are rural telecommunications carriers that elected the revised offer of Alternative Connect America Model (A-CAM) support in Wisconsin. (See Attachment A). We urge the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") to take action, before the end of this year if possible, to authorize additional A-CAM funding up to \$200/month per eligible customer location to enable more rural consumers in Wisconsin to have the broadband connectivity necessary in today's economy.

This additional funding will result in defined and measurable progress in closing the digital divide in the State of Wisconsin. The companies in our State that elected the revised offer of A-CAM support committed to deploy broadband to a specific number of additional locations if further funding were made available by December 31, 2017. We are ready, willing and able to meet those additional broadband deployment obligations. Collectively, funding of \$200/month per location would result in an additional 2,819 locations in Wisconsin having access to a minimum of 25/3 Mbps broadband service, while 987 locations would newly have access to service of at least 10/1 Mbps. The number of A-CAM funded locations that would remain on "reasonable request" in Wisconsin would decrease by 78% percent, or 1,938, if funding is increased – meaning that the carriers serving those customers will have a concrete obligation to deploy broadband to them.

There is no need for delay. The mechanism to distribute additional funds to advance broadband deployment is already in place. The additional funding will be targeted to high-cost census blocks that are not served by unsubsidized competitors where, absent support, it is not economically feasible to extend broadband service. We are already upgrading network infrastructure in our communities and are eager to further extend the reach of those networks to additional rural consumers. If we receive additional funding now, we will be able to design our network upgrades in the most efficient manner to better serve our communities.

Allocating this additional funding to further extend broadband in our communities will result in more far reaching economic and social benefits. Residents of rural Wisconsin have told us they are reluctant to expand their businesses because of the limited broadband services available to them. Further extending the reach of broadband will enable more children in our communities to do their homework at home, allow our seniors to age in place, and result in healthcare savings for the chronically ill who can be remotely monitored at

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
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home. With upgraded service to A-CAM locations, rural Wisconsin students will be able to more readily access a wider variety of content such as video streaming of live classes, documentaries and other educational programs.

We urge the Commission to act by the end of this year to allocate additional funding to carry out its original decision to provide A-CAM funding for up to \$200/month per eligible location.

Sincerely,

The Wisconsin A-CAM Companies

cc: Chairman Ajit Pai  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly  
Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
Commissioner Brendan Carr

Attachment A

**Attachment A**  
**Wisconsin A-CAM Companies**

Amery Telcom, Inc.  
Badger Telecom  
Black Earth Telephone Company  
Bonduel Telephone Company  
Bruce Telephone Company  
Burlington, Brighton, & Wheatland Telephone Company  
Central State Telephone Company  
Clear Lake Telephone Company  
Coon Valley Farmers Telephone Company, Inc.  
Dickeyville Telephone  
Eastcoast Telecom  
Farmers Independent Telephone Company  
Farmers Telephone Company  
Grantland Telecom  
Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc.  
Mid-Plains Telephone  
Midway Telephone Company  
Mosinee Telephone Company  
Mt. Vernon Telephone Company  
Riverside Telecom  
Scandinavia Telephone Company  
Somerset Telephone Company  
Southeast Telephone Company of Wisconsin  
State Long Distance Telephone Company  
Stockbridge & Sherwood Telephone Company  
Tenney Telephone Company  
Union Telephone Company  
UTELCO  
Waunakee Telephone Company  
Wittenberg Telephone Company